

April 19, 2013

Dear Seniors,

I know you will enjoy this year's summer reading: Americanah by Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Your best bet is to buy it through Amazon.com as it is Adichie's most recent novel, to be released mid-May, 2013. You will surely be tempted to use it as a door stop but don't. You'll miss the experience, not to mention a passing first nine weeks grade. I strongly discourage students to download the text to cell phones or to other electronic devices, including Kindle and Nook. All discussions, tests, quizzes, presentations and essays will refer to the traditional book version of Americanah which **does not** correspond to electronic, Kindle, Nook or downloaded versions. In an effort to optimize learning, I expect only traditional texts in the classroom. Students with hardships please contact Dr. Williams at WiliamsJ@leonschools.net at the **beginning of summer**.

After you read Americanah in its entirety you will be ready to write a 3-5 page paper. What better way to initiate yourselves into your final year of I.B. at James S. Rickards High School? Indeed, it will be a great year for us as we tackle some of the world's best literature. Remember: To read a book is to go the distance. Only those who possess both character and courage will accept the challenge of taking responsibility for their education. If you aspire to be great, act great. In all things, in all ways.

Brief guidelines for the paper: The paper must use MLA format. If your paper is not in MLA format it will earn a zero. If you don't know what MLA format is then you were not listening in your sophomore English class. I suggest you use Purdue Owl on the internet or Google MLA format.

- 3-5 pages
- Double space: Does not mean triple, single, quadruple, one and a half spaces, etc.
- 12 point font: Does not mean anything other than 12 point.
- Font: Use the standard Times New Roman. (Like this font.)
- Number pages
- No covers, no plastic, no films, no folders, no nothing. Follow MLA format.
- Stapled or paper clipped
- Works cited page: Google Works Cited page or use Purdue Owl or Google MLA format.

Without a Works Cited page you will earn a 0.

You don't know what to write? What in the book interests you? What do you want to explore?

Consider: Themes, relationships between characters, setting, culture, conflict and so on. You may want to write about the author's use of literary conventions such as style, voice, p-o-v, and how they work to achieve a deeper understanding of the text. There are literally hundreds of ideas. Come up with one that suits your unique journey with the text.

Be specific. Use plenty of contextual support. Develop your claims. Have a thesis statement. Bring energy and voice to the page. Use active voice and present tense. Be concise and direct. Do not give me a plot summary anywhere. I'm your reader. If you are bored then you will bore me.

If you should plagiarize any part of your essay, you will receive a zero on the assignment and then you will report to Mr. Cook.

Dr. Cory

